

World Brief

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Avanches kill 205 in Himalayas

DELHI, March 12 (R) - Avalanches have killed at least 205 people in the Himalayan mountain valleys of Himachal Pradesh, Chief Minister Shanta Kumar said today. He told the assembly in Simla the death toll was based on reports up to yesterday, but communications with several villages in the Lahaul and Spiti and Pangi valley areas were cut off. Helicopters have been dropping food, medicines and supplies to 27 villages isolated by snow more than two miles high. Helicopters have been unable to land in the worst hit but two teams of doctors are making their way through on foot.

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردين تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

8 pages today

AMMAN, TUESDAY MARCH 13, 1979 - RABIE TANI 14, 1399

EMS goes into operation today

PARIS, March 12 (R) - Common Market leaders announced today the European Monetary System (EMS) will begin tomorrow. A statement released shortly after the nine heads of government began their two-day summit said the EMS will go into operation when foreign exchange markets open in the morning. The scheme, designed to shield trade within the community from the ill effects of unstable currencies, has been delayed for more than two months by a dispute between France and West Germany. The quarrel, about a timetable for the phasing out of border taxes and subsidies on farm exports, was resolved last week at a meeting in Brussels of EEC agriculture ministers. Today's statement said only that the leaders noted all the conditions were now complete for the EMS exchange rate mechanism to begin and it will start when the markets reopen tomorrow.

Arab League peace mission reports

Successful talks in North, tough task in South Yemen

March 12 (R) - An Arab League peace mission reported today that it had achieved a breakthrough in negotiations with the government of North Yemen, but that it still faces a tough task in the border regions of the country. The mission, led by Egyptian Foreign Minister Ibrahim Badie Pasha, arrived in Sanaa yesterday. It is the first time the mission has been able to meet with the government of North Yemen. The mission is also expected to meet with the government of South Yemen in the near future. The mission is also expected to meet with the government of South Yemen in the near future. The mission is also expected to meet with the government of South Yemen in the near future.

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The death toll from Sunday's explosion at a dynamite depot at Um Al Basateen, near Amman, has risen to 14. Thirteen of the victims were buried Monday at Um Al Qutain, a nearby village. (See story on page 6)

Arafat accuses Carter of seeking alliance

BEIRUT, March 12 (R) - Palestinian commander Yasser Arafat said tonight President Carter was seeking to establish a U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian alliance but the Arab nation would foil his plan. Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was addressing a rally in West Beirut called to protest against President Carter's Middle East trip. The commander accused President Carter of "seeking a policeman in the region, after the downfall of the Shah (of Iran), to help the Israeli policeman." Egyptian President Anwar Sadat had agreed to play this role, he said. But he added that "such a role in this region has ended for ever."

Pakistan, Iran quit CENTO

ISLAMABAD, March 12 (R) - Pakistan today quit the Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO), saying the defence alliance had lost its relevance to the country's security. Foreign Affairs Minister Feroz Khan Noon said the withdrawal would become legally binding only next February. He cited what he described as United States policy, British attitudes and the preference given to non-aligned states over allies as reasons for Pakistan's decision to leave. "We want to be in the mainstream of events," he said in what was seen as an attempt by Pakistan to seek closer ties with the non-aligned movement.

Vietnam accuses China of plotting to annex Laos

BANGKOK, March 12 (R) - Vietnam today accused China of plotting to annex Laos and said Peking was still waging its war against Vietnam. The Vietnamese Communist Party newspaper Nhan Dan alleged that China had trained anti-Laotian government forces and sent them back to their country to foment a rebellion that would be combined with a Chinese attack to bring Laos under Peking's control. Nhan Dan said China had trained men loyal to Vang Pao, the leader who took thousands of his fellow hill tribesmen into an American-backed war against the Pathet Lao, the present rulers of Laos. He now lives in the United States. On the fighting in northern Vietnamese provinces, invaded by China more than three weeks ago, Radio Hanoi said Chinese troops were making "nibbling" attacks from areas they still occupied, a week after Peking announced it was pulling out its forces. The withdrawal however appears to be a slow one. Reliable sources in Bangkok say the battle reports from Radio Hanoi are consistent with a pullback of Chinese troops to the border. They note that the radio has been reporting fighting in areas progressively closer to the frontier. But they said that a foreign ministry statement issued in Hanoi last night, accusing the Chinese of moving two border marker posts farther into Vietnam, could complicate the starting of peace talks the two sides have agreed on.

Appearing to concede failure Carter flies to Cairo to report to Sadat

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 12 (Agencies) - President Carter will fly to Cairo tomorrow to report to President Anwar Sadat on his three days of talks in Israel about an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, the White House spokesman said here tonight. In Cairo, Presidential Spokesman Saad Zaghloul Nassar told Reuters that President Carter had telephoned Mr. Sadat at 2045 (1845 GMT) today and told him he would be coming tomorrow for talks at Cairo Airport during a brief stopover on his way home to Washington.

Spokesman Jody Powell said Mr. Carter would be met at Cairo Airport by President Sadat for a discussion on his way home to Washington. U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will travel with the President. Mr. Powell said. He told reporters that progress had been made on certain issues but that "it is safe to conclude that some issues are not resolved." Mr. Powell was reluctant to characterise the accomplishments of the Carter mission. He said it would not be possible to form a final opinion before consulting Mr. Sadat. Fewer issues remained outstanding than when the president left Washington for his journey to Egypt and Israel last week, Mr. Powell said. Compared with the distance Israel and Egypt had travelled since they started negotiating, the remaining differences were quite small, Mr. Powell said. But he went on: "It may be, and demonstrably is, a difficult final distance."

Mr. Powell declined comment on the remark made earlier by Prime Minister Menachem Begin that great progress had been achieved during the Carter mission. Mr. Begin's spokesman Dan Patir said negotiations were continuing tonight and Mr. Vance met Foreign Secretary Moshe Dayan. Mr. Carter will have a further meeting with Mr. Begin at breakfast-time tomorrow in Jerusalem's King David Hotel. Mr. Vance will go on to Washington with Mr. Carter and has no plans at present to return to Israel, Mr. Powell said. Mr. Carter had been due to leave Israel for home this afternoon but stayed on for further talks when the mission failed to achieve the hoped-for result. Mr. Carter had hoped to forge agreement out of a conflicting welter of proposals and counter-proposals on the shape of an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. What these proposals were has still not been revealed. Reporters asked Mr. Begin's press secretary, Dan Patir, if any major problems had been solved. "Yes," Mr. Patir replied. But he cautioned that the problems remaining were not insignificant. The first meeting of the day was between Mr. Carter and his full delegation on one side and the entire Israeli cabinet on the other. They told him the decisions they had reached in a middle-of-the-night meeting which had ended just a few hours previously. The Israeli ministers put up amendments to the proposals brought here from Egypt last Saturday by Mr. Carter. These Egyptian proposals were themselves counter-suggestions to a U.S. plan previously approved by Israel.

After hearing the latest Israeli ideas, the U.S. side decided it would not be worth while conveying them to Egypt. The announcement of the Cairo stopover followed an afternoon meeting between the Israeli and American delegations on further aspects of the problems blocking a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. President Carter himself, who in a speech to the Israeli Knesset (parliament) earlier in the day had appeared to be conceding failure, stayed away from this afternoon meeting. His opposite number, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, told reporters there had been progress and that further talks could be expected in a few hours. Mr. Begin sounded more enthusiastic. "Great progress was made," the Israeli leader told reporters who inferred he was talking about the mission as a whole rather than the day's deliberations. In his Knesset speech, President Carter called on Egypt and Israel to make historic decisions for peace, saying "we still fall short" of the goals he hoped to achieve in his Middle East diplomacy. In the emotional speech Mr. Carter said both Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Sadat were committed to a settlement. "But we have not yet fully met our challenge," he declared. "Despite our unflinching determination, despite the extraordinary progress of the past six months, we still fall short."

Mr. Carter repeatedly sought to assure the Knesset that the United States would never agree to a peace treaty that was a sham or placed the Israel in peril. "It is now the sombre responsibility of us all to exert our energies and our imaginations -- and to contemplate the tragedy of failure and the legitimate emotions of the people."

Irani women defy hostile crowds in protest march

TEHRAN, March 12 (R) - Thousands of women demonstrators braved hostile crowds of religious supporters to march through Tehran today in protest at Iran's increasingly strict enforcement of Islamic rules. To continual taunts from groups of jeering, chanting men waving pictures of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the women followed a five-kilometre route from Tehran University to "Freedom Square," escorted by a small number of revolutionary guards. Despite the tense atmosphere, no clashes were reported. Revolutionary guards fired into the air three times, twice with submachineguns, to break up throngs of men jostling and insulting the demonstrators. With the Shah overthrown just a month ago, this was the fourth demonstration by the feminist militants in five days. It was not as big as the 15,000-turnout last Thursday which touched off the protests. The women of Tehran, and especially the better off and educated ones who had begun to enjoy a degree of emancipation under the Shah, were incensed by Ayatollah Khomeini's recent attempt to impose the traditional chador (veil and cloak). The men tried to drown the women's shrill shouts of "we didn't do a revolution to retreat centuries" and "we are Iranian women and will not be chained". The counter-demonstrators loudly welcomed a phalanx of devout Moslem women in dark chadors who joined in the anti-feminist protest. "They are just sheep," hissed a young girl student in faultless English. Cries of "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great) from the traditionalists vied with leftist slogans in support of women's liberation. The women protesters included the American feminist Kate Millett, who said yesterday Ayatollah Khomeini was seriously threatening women's rights in Iran. The women, however, were unable to carry out their original plan of reading out a declaration at the toppled monarchy's grandiose Shahyad Monument in "Freedom Square" and eventually had to be shepherded into buses to get away from the counter-demonstrators. Revolutionary guards opened fire again when some of the anti-feminists stoned one of the buses. There were no injuries, however.



President Carter delivering his emotional speech to the Israeli Knesset Monday. (AP wirephoto)

the Palestinians, with whom above all Israel shares a common interest for peace and to live in mutual respect." The President then told the Israeli legislators: "The treaty between Israel and Egypt we hope to put before you promises to be the cornerstone of a comprehensive peace in the entire region, which will not be complete until it includes all those involved in the conflict." Mr. Carter did not specify the stage now reached in the negotiations aimed at overcoming obstacles to an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. "Wisdom and courage are required of us all," the president said, "and so too are practicality" (continuing on page 6)

Israeli troops, Arab protesters clash throughout occupied W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 12 (R) - Two Arab youths were shot and wounded by Israeli troops in the West Bank today during demonstrations against President Carter's Middle East mission, Arab sources said. A third demonstrator was also hurt as the troops clashed with protesters outside Bir Zeit College near Ramallah. The protesters had refused to disperse after shouting anti-Israeli and anti-American slogans. Earlier the Israeli military government banned a rally of mayors and other notables at the college, a traditional centre for nationalist activity. The authorities closed off the area. Demonstrations erupted throughout the West Bank today. Youngsters hurled stones at passing vehicles and set up roadblocks with burning tyres. Most high schools in the region were closed after pupils decided not to show up, and the military authorities then ordered some to remain shut until further notice. The village of Bir Zeit was put under curfew in the afternoon. Israeli military sources said several places to disperse crowds of youths shouting slogans against President Carter and Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat, saying he was making a separate peace with Israel.

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Editorial News

Two royal decrees for U. of J. appointments

AMMAN, March 12 (JNA)—A Royal decree was issued today appointing Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat to the position of Dean of the Shari'a Faculty of the University of Jordan. Another decree issued today approved the university's board of trustee's decision to promote Dr. Hassan Abdul Qader Saleh, now head of the Geography Department to full professor status.

U.S. aviation team leaves, Syrians continue talks

AMMAN, March 12 (JNA)—A team from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration left here today following a four-day visit during which it held discussions with the director general of the Civil Aviation Directorate. The discussions were on air safety and the development of Jordan's air control systems. Meanwhile, the joint Syrian-Jordanian civil aviation committee resumed meetings today at the Civil Aviation Directorate with the object of drawing up a unified system for aviation control and safety to be used by both countries.

Libya donates JD 500,000 for Moslem orphans' school

AMMAN, March 12 (JNA)—The Libyan ambassador to Jordan, Saleh Al Sanoussi, yesterday handed the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Kamel Al Sharif, a cheque for JD 500,000 as a first contribution by Libya to the construction of a vocational training school for Moslem orphans to be built in the Marka district of Amman.

Conference calls on Islamic nations to condemn Zionist desecration

AMMAN, March 12 (JNA)—A general Islamic conference held here yesterday called on the Arab and Islamic nations to stand up to Zionist desecration of holy places in Jerusalem and other parts of the occupied Arab territories. A statement issued at the end of the meeting attended by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and religious leaders from around the country also called on various world human rights groups to denounce Zionist practices in the occupied territories which it said constitute violations of human rights principles and the region's religious heritage. The statement was distributed to Arab and Islamic countries' ambassadors accredited to Jordan, and to Jordanian embassies abroad. The participants also sent cables explaining Israel's unlawful practices to the U.N. Secretary General, Kurt Waldheim, UNESCO and world Islamic organisations.

Coming & Going

Mother and child dept. director back from U.S. symposium

AMMAN, March 12 (JNA)—Director of the Mother and Child Health Department at the Health Ministry, Dr. Mohammad Al Halabi returned here today from a visit to the United States. He took part in a four-week symposium on family planning held at the Johns Hopkins University last month. Taking part in the symposium were directors of mother and child health centres in various countries of Asia, the Americas and Africa. A Health Ministry spokesman here said meanwhile that the ministry is currently carrying out a project to develop and increase child and mother health centres in Jordan. The project is being implemented in cooperation with the U.N. Population Fund, UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Transport minister off to Greece and W. Germany

AMMAN, March 12 (JNA)—Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat leaves for Greece and West Germany on March 19 at the head of an official delegation from the Ministry of Transport, the Directorate of Civil Aviation and Air, the Royal Jordanian Airline. During his visit to Greece the minister will sign a Greek-Jordanian transport agreement, and in West Germany he will sign an agreement for a West German loan to Jordan to finance consultative services for construction projects of the Aqaba Railway Corporation.

Amman's mayor returns from Baghdad talks

AMMAN, March 12 (JNA)—The Mayor of Amman, Ma'n Abu Nuwwar, returned here last night at the end of a five-day visit to Baghdad. During the visit the Mayor held talks with officials of the Baghdad Municipality on cooperation in municipal affairs, including exchange of expertise, between the cities of Amman and Baghdad. He also toured various projects carried out by the Baghdad municipality over the past few years. The mayor was accompanied by a three-member delegation.

Polish planning minister arrives for trade talks

RAMTHA, March 12 (JNA)—Polish Minister of State for Planning arrived in Amman from Damascus today on a five-day visit to Jordan. In a statement upon arrival here he said his talks with Jordanian officials will deal with ways of increasing economic cooperation between Jordan and Poland and the increase of trade between the two countries. The Polish Minister will also be touring development projects in the Jordan Valley region and the phosphate mines in Russeifa, northeast of Amman.

Permanent industrial fair will offer more than machine exhibits

By Ron Cathell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, March 12—After waiting 26 years for the right conditions, Jordan is to have its own international fair to exhibit consumer goods, food stuffs, industrial hardware, the latest agricultural technology, pharmaceuticals and almost everything else which can be bought or sold.

Since 1952, following World War Two, when young Crown Prince Hussein inaugurated the first industrial fair of the region in Amman, local authorities have been watching for economic conditions to be ripe for a permanent fair to be successful.

The purpose of the fair is to help spur Jordan's economy by generating trade. With Jordan's next Five-Year Plan designed to turn the country into an export instead of an importer, Jordan wants the world to see what it has to offer.

"This is a great opportunity for Jordan," Director of the Amman Chamber of Industry, Ali Dajani, told the Jordan Times today. "This is not a wishful dream. It is a practical idea. I believe we now have the potential. We want to expand our economic boundaries. This is our ambition, and I think we can succeed because we have the expert manpower necessary, and we are developing rapidly."

Besides being a showcase for Jordan's products, the fair will also introduce new technologies from other countries. Last year, twelve countries held similar exhibitions deep to the difficulties of finding adequate facilities and organising personnel.

"It will also become a big meeting place nationally, regionally and internationally," Mr. Dajani said, pointing out that it will attract many Arab and foreign who want to examine new technologies and learn new techniques. "And this is a big opportunity for Jordan to be a model for other Arab and Islamic nations."

The government has already acquired 450,000 square metres of land for the fair, 15 kilometres southwest of Amman at Marj Al Hamam. When finished, the fair will have 975,000 square metres of floor area in buildings and exhibition halls. It will cost at least JD 10 million.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Using plasticulture

Sir,
I read with interest Mr. Rami Khouri's article "plasticulture" in Jordan, since I have been growing vegetables under plastic in my garden in Amman since 1968.

In his comments to the Jordan Times, Dr. Rushdier, two advantages of "plasticulture," viz. higher day temperature for increased photosynthesis and a raised temperature for increased humidity. Unlike glass, plastic traps escaping moisture from the soil and produces what is called a "sweating effect," a semitropical dampness. Leaf plants like lettuce, the result is very tender leaves for eating compared with the tough, leathery leaves grown outside in the low humidity of Jordan.

Incidentally, for readers who may wish to experiment plastic in their gardens, they may like to make cloches, tunnels, as I do. Buy some 8-mm wire, cut in lengths and bend into half circles. Push the ends into the ground. These hoops every half metre down the row of plants. With a strip of plastic and peg the plastic to the ground. Your plants are then enclosed in their miniature plastic. One end should be left open in the daytime when temperature rises steeply, and can be lowered at night when temperature use green-tinted plastic to avoid leaf-scorch but clear equally effective.

Yours faithfully
D.C.F.I.

Department of English
University of Jordan
Amman
March 11, 1979.

Good response

Sir,
We were all very pleased with the article (on Air response: High School) in the Jordan Times (Feb. 27). The coverage was great and the article well-written. The students all rushed out to buy copies, and I'm sure they were all very happy.

The article, incidentally, brought some response from interested persons, concerning the expansion of the Community School, and right now it looks like a reality.

Elizabeth Do
Supervisor

Amman Correspondence High School
Box 5262
Amman

March 3, 1979

TUESDAY March 13, 1979

Haya Arts Centre

7:30 p.m.

CONCERT

BY

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Helmut LABERER
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ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I Monday editorially says that it would be naive to believe that the current negotiations taking place in occupied Jerusalem are aimed at effecting an Israeli withdrawal or recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. Peace in Camp David terms is a suspicious peace that seeks to entrench the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. The Arabs in general as well as the Palestinians in particular are justified in rejecting the Camp David peace "which is designed to liquidate the Palestinian as well as undermine the whole Arab nation cause", the paper concludes.

AL DUSTOUR believes that whether or not President Carter denounces Israel for the failure of peace negotiations, the fact remains that the world is aware of who the real aggressor is. If President Sadat embarked on his peace mission on the pretext that "viable alternatives" to his initiative are lacking in the Arab world, then it is time to remind him that the situation has changed, particularly following the Baghdad summit and Iran's declaration of support for the Arab cause which give new momentum for the Arabs to achieve the equitable peace envisaged by the United Nations, the paper concludes.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Photo Exhibit

The French Cultural Centre is displaying a photo exhibit on "80 Years of French Cinema" during regular hours.

French Documentary

The French Cultural Centre presents the fifth in a series of documentaries on the French cinema entitled "Vers le réalisme poétique." The film is at 6:00 p.m. on Monday.

BBC T.V. Film

The British Council presents the BBC's television production of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" directed by John Gorrrie and stars Eric Porter and Janet Suzman. The film starts at 6:00 p.m.

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The scourge could be prevented if...

By Hugh Pain

ROME, March 12—The locusts are coming back, and man has only himself to blame.

The world is facing the worst plague of locusts for 16 years, less than 18 months after some experts were confidently predicting they would never again pose a serious threat.

For the first time in history and technology, the money and the manpower are ready for the fight. But instead, politics and war are intervening, threatening millions of people with hunger.

At this very moment on their breeding grounds, countless locusts are emerging from the egg and undergoing the five transformations which in 30 days will

make them adults.

In another month they too will breed, each female laying up to 100 eggs at a time. And every day, each two-grain insect will devour its own weight of crops or foliage, the thin lifeline of the world's poorest people.

With grim irony, the breeding grounds are in the very regions where the control teams cannot

travel and the antilocus planes cannot fly: Iran, parts of Oman, the Yemens, the Ogaden, Eritrea.

"We are fighting in the dark," said locust expert Jean Roy at the Rome headquarters of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), which coordinates the fight against the desert locust.

"We have good reason to believe there are swarms in all these centres, which we cannot visit for political reasons."

In Iran, for instance, FAO knows there were swarms in December. "Since then we have had no reliable information. For security reasons there is not a single United Nations team left in the country."

The rains have been good this spring in southern Iran. Unchecked, the locusts are multiplying there. If FAO could get to them, most of them could be killed. As it is, a plague is certain.

In the same way, the Donakil Desert of Eritrea and Ethiopia's southern Ogaden region are both known to contain locusts. A FAO report in January spoke of "ideal breeding conditions" while in other parts of Ethiopia swarms covering six square kilometres have been destroyed.

But with a guerrilla war in Eritrea and with the Ogaden barred absolutely after last year's fighting, nothing can be done except to wait and wonder which country will suffer.

Because locusts know no boundaries, the country which allows them to breed may escape while, far away, destruction falls literally out of a clear blue sky.

The essential part of control is to catch the locusts early. It is relatively cheap and easy to destroy the swarms on the ground at the "hopper" stage, before the 30 days are up and the insects take wing.

Once this opportunity has been missed they spread and devastate with incredible speed, eating any green plant they find.

"On their own they can move at only about 20 kilometres per hour," said Mr. Roy. "But if the wind is right a swarm can move from the Empty Quarter of Saudi Arabia to Gujarat in India—2,000 kilometres—in a single flight."

Gliding at up to 3,000 metres altitude in a compact mass, the locusts effortlessly ride the wind, landing wherever it takes them along a broad band from the Atlantic to southwest Asia.

And where they land, simple arithmetic shows the result.



Two hundred locusts can fit into one square metre.

"On one square metre," said Mr. Roy, "you could easily get 200 locusts. And swarms covering 100 square kilometres of ground are not unknown, which makes 200 million insects each eating their own weight each day."

"So someone, somewhere, is going to lose 400 tonnes of vegetation just to feed one swarm. Every day."

The world has enjoyed nearly 17 years without a serious locust plague—the longest respite in recorded history. FAO has spent the time developing techniques ready for the day of their return—techniques already used with success in, among others, Saudi Arabia and Somalia.

Twice a day, satellite photographs of the earth are studied to detect rainfall in potential breeding areas. These results are compared with pictures from another satellite, Landsat, which shows where vegetation is springing up.

If the conditions favour locust breeding, headquarters in Rome alerts the local organisation, which sends in a team by air if possible, or by landrover, camel or even on foot.

Wherever the team reports a significant number of locusts, light aircraft follow to spray pesticides, while the insects are still at the

hopper state. Extremely low concentrations are effective, making the operation simple and cheap.

In a good year, total expenditure on detection and control amounts to no more than \$15-20 million worldwide.

But once they have flown, as happened in India and Pakistan in 1962, difficulty, cost and damage rise vertically.

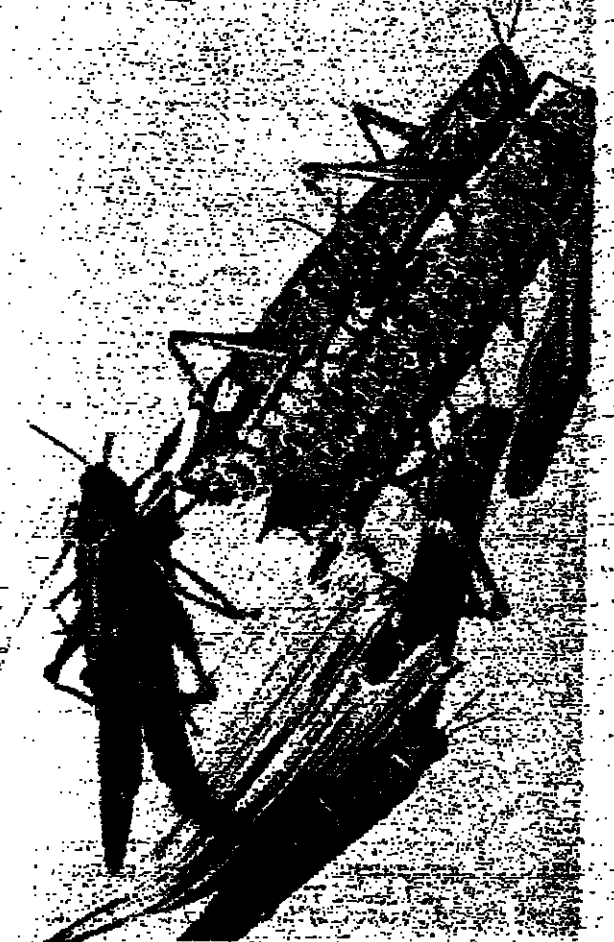
Unlike the World Health Organisation in its fight against another biblical scourge, smallpox, FAO does not force the day of total eradication.

"We need to achieve a kill-rate of 90-95 per cent simply to keep the locust population level," said Mr. Roy. "With millions of square kilometres to survey, eliminating every single insect would be an impossible aim."

Fortunately, it is not necessary. The more modest goal of early detection and spraying could keep the threat permanently at bay.

As it is, for avoidable political reasons, even this seems unattainable. And later this year, probably around June and July, in North Africa or the Sahel or the Near East or India-Pakistan, because of someone else's distant war, destruction will descend upon a hapless population.

Reuters



A locust can eat the equivalent of its own weight in



Within 30 days the locust becomes an adult. The female can lay 100 eggs at a time.

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Jordan's U.N. delegate says in Security Council speech

Israel treats Palestinians as impediments to be removed

NOTE: Following is the complete text of a statement made by the Jordanian U.N. delegate, Hazem Nuweibeh, in the Security Council on March 9, by Hazem Nuweibeh, Jordan's Permanent Representative to the U.N.

IDENT:

And long are the paths which we tread, dark and our pathless destination. These sober poetic verses aptly and pointedly portray the systematic martyrdom of the Palestinian people and their indigenous Palestinian and victims. I can think of no issue in the entire broad Middle East conflict which is more loaded with potential disaster than the subject of our current debate, over the systematic, ruthless, heedless and policy and practice of Israeli colonisation and despoilment of the West Bank, whose heartland and immortal soul is the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and the West Bank, in its inalienable bargaining ransom and captivity. The issue involves, fundamentally, the very survival of the people or their eventual perdition in the remnants of land. It is literally a sinking ship signalling an S.O.S. scene, irretrievably, into the fathomless sea. The map on the horizon of the occupied territories is fast fading in the distant twilight and has reached the point where it is the point of invisibility and surgical metamorphosis. Circulating a little map, as well as a few explanatory charts, portray more than any words can ever do, the dimensions and magnitude of the Israeli occupation, cannibalisation, erosion and dismantling of the Palestinian homeland. The little map, as distinguished member of the Security Council will immediately grasp, is studded with dots and numbers of settlements which have already been constructed on confiscated Palestinian lands. These dots and numbers cover the period ending Dec 31, 1978, showing Israeli colonisation is almost a daily occurrence, asking for laymen at the Mission to make a timely and appropriate aggregate clarity, of the emasculation of the Palestinian people.

In January, my Government's instructions had to be the complaint with the three new additional settlements, a suburb of Jericho and a major water new settlement in the Kfar-etzion complex between Hebron and Huwara, a few miles to the east of the interim line, these have been superseded by newer constructions under construction or in the offing. But culled to this august Council, even without the additions, is as sordid, horrendous and dark, as malignant, of cancerous cells, rashes of bubonic plague which has and continues to erode any viable or meaningful Palestinian people in their occupied homeland, any future tenable existence at all.

In 1967, we have been requesting, pleading and urging the Assembly and the Security Council to take decisive action to bring the Israeli usurpers, highway robbers and to their senses, and to desist and rescind all these flagrant and blatantly violate international law, inalienable rights of the indigenous people. The Fourth Convention of 1949, which is both forthright and categorically safeguarding the rights of the civilian population.

The Security Council and other United Nations bodies have only been responsive to our pleas in words and resolutions which we are most grateful -- but incredibly ineffectual in actions and deeds. Their masterly inaction and have already created an untenable and impossible situation which renders any talk about a peaceful resolution to conflict chimerical, meaningless and outright deceitful. We have reached a point of no return geared to the abyss to course towards disaster. It is perfectly understandable about Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

Coming more clear everyday that it is impossible to reason with a politically motivated, primitive and orientation... masquerading in the name of peace and racist exclusiveness and fanatically oblivious of the glorious movement of the Palestinian people's liberation.

As a feasible framework for bringing about a solution to the Middle East conflict. But what is not the failure to recognise, in spite of repeated at the Israeli occupation authorities have, over the years, preempted and torpedoed the letter and spirit resolution on the ground. The Israelis are undisciplined to seize the land, the resources and to dispose, inian people until nothing is left for them to survive. All the previous United Nations resolutions, notably upon whose inherent and legal validity Israel was admitted to membership of the United Nations, pledging to honour and implement them, only to have achieved its objective.

The very survival and continued existence of the Palestinian people, on the remnants of their homeland, stand in gravest jeopardy, and when an unbroken and treasured legacy dating back through the centuries of recorded history is committed to demise, and the three of Islam's holiest places and sanctuaries are threatened by the Israeli invaders to strangulation prior to then, our response to them is that when it reaches the end or not to be, the whole Arab world and the 800 million of the Islamic faith, and all peace-loving people will see to it that in God's measured time, these retrogressive policies of blatant aggression will not be allowed to pass unredressed, no matter how much it takes to undo them.

More clear everyday that it is well-nigh impossible with a politically and emotionally perverted, primed-orientation -- technology notwithstanding -- in the name of religious and racist exclusiveness, fanatically oblivious of the glorious movement of liberation, over the past three decades, which remark of our United Nations accomplishments.

IDENT: From generalities to specifics, what exactly have the authorities perpetrated up to the end of 1978?

Expropriated so far, according to my Government's million six hundred twenty-five thousand dunums of land -- a dunum is one thousand square metres -- statistics concede the confiscation of 1,500,000 dunums by accepting Israeli figures, the confiscated lands 3 per cent of the total area of the tiny West Bank. Confiscated lands, buildings and properties comprise the categories:

1. So-called "state domains," which are in fact the composition of the various towns and village centres and have been by them for countless centuries. Thus, the sixty thousand dunums confiscated at Khan-ul-Ahmar, ten miles from Jericho and where the Israeli occupation has constructed



Jordan's U.N. delegate Dr. Hazem Nuweibeh (right) delivers his speech to the Security Council in New York on Thursday. Looking on is PLO representative to the U.N. Mr. Zuhdi Tarazi.

an industrial complex, with full infrastructure and housing, belong undeniably to the villagers of Eitariyah, Abu Dees and Silwan, suburbs of Jerusalem. It is there that the villagers have been cultivating and grazing for centuries.

2. Confiscation of the lands and properties of the so-called "absentee owners." They are all West Bank inhabitants and happened to be outside of the country when the June war broke out. They have been denied repatriation to their homes and homeland, and yet the Israelis call them "absentees."

3. Foreclosure and confiscation of lands in the West Bank, even where the owners are right there, on the spurious, notorious and inimical grounds of so-called security and military needs. What security or military grounds can be served by depriving a villager of his life-sustaining livelihood, is a question which only the Mafia-Israeli military commanders can answer.

It is noteworthy to recall that, recently the villagers of Nebi Saleh, to the West of Jerusalem, whose lands had been expropriated by the military on grounds that they did not possess title-deeds, brought action before the Supreme Court, in which they produced documentation and evidence of uninterrupted possession, including tax payment receipts. When the villagers won the case, the Israeli Government ceased the confiscation of other lands on grounds of validity of possession. All their notices of expropriation to the victims have since been based on grounds of security or military, over which courts have no jurisdiction whatsoever.

4. Forcing the farmers to substitute their lands for more marginal ones, resulting in further land fragmentation, dispersal and flight from the land, to the slave-labour market of the Israeli economy.

5. There have been instances of outright forgeries, in collusion with the occupation authorities, where individuals who do not own, or have any entitlement to a piece of land, had sold it on false pretences. The Arab and Israeli papers published several instances of such calculated fraud.

MR. PRESIDENT:

The close to one-third of the West Bank expropriated so far has not spared a single area or location. Upwards of 74 settlements and residential areas colonised by the Israelis -- they were 68 up to the end of 1978 -- have been constructed on three hundred forty-seven thousand eight hundred seventy-four (347,874) dunums and their breakdown is indicative, beyond any shadow of doubt, of the overall strategy and strategic plans which the Israeli usurpers are bent on achieving -- time and the availability of sufficient immigrants being the only constraints.

The geographic breakdown of colonisation on parts of the one-and-a-half million dunums of land is as follows:

1. Jerusalem and its environs -- ninety four thousand five hundred sixty-four (94,564) dunums. The Israeli settlers in Arab Jerusalem are estimated at 40 to 50 thousand intruders. But numbers -- ominous as they are -- fail to convey the full tale. By Israeli colonisation, Palestinian Arab East Jerusalem, a mere small portion of Palestinian Arab Jerusalem of 1948, which included 70 per cent of Western Jerusalem, is now expanded fifteen-fold. It presently stretches from the doorsteps of Bethlehem in the south to the twin towns of Ramallah and Bireh in the north -- a stretch of 40 kilometres.

If this were not enough, General Sharon who, but for outside duplicity and threat, could easily have been incarcerated with his 15,000-man bulge in the war of 1973 by Egypt's first army, has disclosed his designs to increase Jerusalem's population to one million. Where will this avalanche of people settle? General Sharon reckons with two possibilities:

First -- the compulsive fading away of the one hundred and five thousand (105,000) Palestinian Arab Jerusalemites, weary and exhausted by the strangulation of a ghetto and untenable existence -- or so he calculates. Furthermore, if East Jerusalem's boundaries have been expanded with impunity to Bethlehem and Ramallah, it should not be insurmountable to expand them much further to Hebron in the south and to Nablus in the north, incorporating along the way the lands, residential quarters and villages of an ever depleted and stagnant population. At least this is how Sharon calculates. For since there is an ever-expanding universe, why not an infinitely expanding Jerusalem? It presently constitutes one-fifth of the entire West Bank.

The racist and religious exclusiveness is best proved by the fact that after the 1967 war, the Israeli authorities decreed that after the 1967 war, the Israeli authorities decreed that all construction and settlement shall not be conducted in the western parts of Jerusalem, which are far more spacious and already usurped and in Israeli control, but in the Palestinian Arab eastern sectors, to achieve the closing of the ring and the choking of the Palestinian inhabitants.

Second -- Ramallah and Bireh townships: thirty five thousand six hundred (35,600) dunums upon which twelve settlements have been constructed.

Third -- Hebron - Bethlehem and Jericho towns where one hundred and sixteen thousand (116,000) dunums have been colonised on twelve settlements.

Fourth -- Nablus - Tulkarm and Jenin cities where twenty thousand eight hundred and sixty (20,860) dunums have been colonised in fourteen settlements. This represents a part of Likud's policy of Israel's creeping expansion from the west into the Palestinian Arab's remaining habitat. I shall elaborate later on the strategic plans of both the Labour coalition and the Likud.

Fifth -- The Jordan Valley, where eighty thousand seven hundred (80,700) dunums have been colonised in nineteen settlements. I should add here that but for the town of Jericho and a few adjacent agricultural Palestinian Arab villages, such as 'Ujaj, the whole of the Jordan Valley in the West Bank from south to north, from Beisan to the Dead Sea, is firmly settled by Israeli colonisers. Not only have they bored deep water wells, which turned dry or excessively saline the existing Arab wells,

They have also been pumping as much water as they need to maximise their exploitation of this fertile off-season valley at the expense of the Palestinian farmers. My Government's figures indicate that there are already 91,000 Israeli colonisers in Arab Jerusalem, its environs and the rest of the West Bank.

MR. PRESIDENT:

I have spoken about land and people in as broad and abridged a presentation as I could possibly do, to convey the message without imposing excessively on your precious time.

I feel duty-bound to acquaint this esteemed Council with another dimension to the plight of our people under occupation -- one which many believe goes a long way to explaining one of the ultimate aims of Israeli colonisation. The sickening repetition of "security" grounds by the Israeli aggressors is not even worth replying to. For one of the foremost objectives of Israeli planners is to exploit the water resources of the West Bank, amounting to 895 million cubic metres.

Considering that the consumption of water in the West Bank did not exceed 120 million cubic metres in the year 1977, because of Israeli control of Palestinian wells by installing meters on existing wells, destruction of others, and the refusal to give any permits for additional drilling, except for the Israeli colonisers, in addition to the stagnation if not depletion of the existing population, it will be seen that there remains in the West Bank a substantial surplus of untutilised water, amounting to 630 to 750 million cubic metres of water fit for irrigation, housing consumption, as well as industrial uses.

The water resources from various sources in the 1948 Israeli-held territories were estimated in 1977 at one billion six hundred and fifty thousand cubic metres, according to the figures presented by the Israelis to the Deseritification Conference, held in Nairobi, Kenya in September 1977. Thirty-six per cent, or the equivalent of 610 million cubic metres are procured from Lake Tiberias and the fountainhead of the Yarkon River in Palestine, both of which derive water from the watershed of Syria, the River Jordan and its tributaries.

The confluence runs in two lines across the centre of the country to the south and thence to the Naqab at a capacity of 290 million cubic metres per annum. The remaining 64 per cent is derived from water wells bored in the mountainous regions, the coastal area and other accumulations.

With the manifold increase in the Israeli population, in consequence of vast immigration and expansion of agriculture and industry, Israel's consumption of water for agriculture, industry and domestic uses has increased from 426 million cubic metres in 1948 to 1,600 million cubic metres in 1977.

Consequently, Israel has, since the early seventies, been consuming all the available water resources. This year water consumption will approximate 1,820 million cubic metres. In 1985, consumption is expected to reach 2,000 million to 2,100 million cubic metres. With an expected deficit of 415 to 510 million cubic metres, assuming that agricultural consumption remains constant, the Israeli authorities have long decided to take the water resources of the West Bank, along with the land and the people, in a massive hijacking, and to suck the blood and water of the Palestinian people, in order to satisfy their own avarice and expansion.

Anyone in his senses, who is beguiled to think that the Israelis will ever voluntarily relinquish the occupied territories, must be either ignorant of their plans and intentions, or simply glosses

"The Israelis are behaving like vampires and vultures which prey on the remains of the victims. The last thing they want is to 'live and let live,' and since the Palestinians adamantly refuse to fade away, the Israeli occupation authorities have devised an overall strategy to contain what they regard not as fellow human beings, but as impediments to be removed."

MR. PRESIDENT:

I shall try to explain the strategic objectives of the policy of settlements and colonisation.

First -- there are presently three substantial belts of settlements. The first and earliest one is almost the whole of the Jordan Valley, with the aim of cutting the West Bank's populated areas from any physical contact with East Jordan as contiguous territories. The fact that Palestinians are allowed to visit occasionally their closest kin on the West Bank is a part of the lucrative tourist plans, after the capture of Arab Jerusalem and its holy places, which is presently netting to Israel's coffers close to \$1,000 million per annum. Agricultural exports are permitted in order to

prevent them from competing and beating the highly subsidised Israeli products.

This belt of the Jordan Valley is known in political terms as the "Allon line" or plan with its accompanying wire fences, electronic equipment and colonisation.

The second belt presently comprises nine agricultural and industrial complexes, the biggest being the Khan-ul-Ahmar industrial town, ten miles from the River Jordan. These colonies are located on the highlands of the Jordan rift, starting at the Jerusalem-Jericho road and connecting with the first belt of settlements at the West Bank's northern armistice line with Israel. A new so-called "Allon plan road" was constructed to connect the colonies on the highlands with those in the Jordan Valley. Large water pipes are bringing water down the hills to these colonies from the Ain Fara water spring, which used to supply Jerusalem's water needs.

A primary objective of these two belts -- apart from sheer colonisation and economic exploitation -- is to contain the Palestinian population by completing their encirclement from the north, west, south and now the east by the two belts of colonies.

The third belt of colonisation, in accelerated implementation by the present Likud government, is the establishment of a chain of colonies along the entire length of the western highlands of the northern, central and southern parts of the West Bank. This is designed to meet the terrorist Herut party's strategic objectives on the West Bank, which Begin, the alien from Europe, never tires of calling the "liberated territories" and part of "greater Israel."

This third belt is moving the former Israeli armistice line right inside the Palestinian populated areas and hinterland. It is also designed to vivisection the populated areas of the West Bank into smaller areas. The containment of the Palestinians would be facilitated by enclosing them from all sides.

To supplement this plan of control, several lateral highways were constructed or under construction to connect 1948 Israel with the three belts. One highway connects Latroun on the Jaffa-Jerusalem road with Qalandia fifteen kilometres from Jerusalem where a 61-industry complex had been constructed. Another in the southern region of the West Bank is already open and asphalted halfway to the Dead Sea. A third highway, called "Trans-Samarian Highway," would bisect the northern regions of the West Bank and is presently under construction. Another lateral highway further north, is still in the planning stage.

On Jan. 18, 1979, Begin's government allocated some \$40 million for expanding and beefing-up the settlements and also for constructing power, water, sewage and telephone lines in the third belt of colonies.

As for the high-rise residential fortresses which form a ring around our Holy City of Jerusalem, one of the main objectives is to create in the inhabitants of Jerusalem a psychological feeling of living in a ghetto which is already there, in the hope of causing the Palestinians of Jerusalem to emigrate and leave a monolithic Israeli possession of the entire city.

"Even the environment and ecology -- God's great creation -- are viewed with disrespect and derision which only usurpers and aliens to the land are prone to perpetrate."

MR. PRESIDENT:

It is the butcher's knife, operating systematically and relentlessly to vivisection, isolate and cut into bits and pieces what used to be a contiguous West Bank and an Arab Jerusalem.

MR. PRESIDENT:

I have confined my remarks to the all-out colonisation of Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank. Our latest reports indicate that twenty-seven new additional settlements are being planned, the only impediment to implementation being the lack of people and time.

My distinguished colleagues, the Ambassadors of Syria and Egypt, would be better qualified to acquaint the distinguished Council concerning the magnitude of Israeli colonisation in the Gaza Strip, Sinai and the Golan Heights. According to my Government's figures, there are twenty-four settlements in the Gaza Strip and Sinai and twenty-seven settlements on the Golan Heights.

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Israeli indulgence in these aggressive and reprehensible policies mirrors the manner in which the Israeli aggressors view the occupied territories and their inhabitants as objects to be exploited, and not as human beings whose inherent and inalienable worth must be respected in spite of their temporary adversity.

Even the environment and ecology -- God's great creation -- are viewed with disrespect and derision which only usurpers and aliens to the land are prone to perpetrate.

How would this august Council react if I were to recall to you, that the Israelis have already drawn up a notorious plan to bring water from the Mediterranean Sea to traverse and inundate regions of the occupied West Bank and downhill to the River Jordan, sacred to hundreds of millions, and thence to the Dead Sea for dumping? The Israelis are seriously studying this ecological crime to generate electricity and bring Mediterranean saline waterways and ports to the Jordan Valley.

Does it very much matter to them if in the process large areas of the occupied West Bank is laid to waste? If the River Jordan becomes so saline as to be unfit for human, animal and plant? And if the Dead Sea bursts its shores and drowns large areas of the East Bank? It may seem like fantasy or clever engineering. But at what cost to the Holy Land and its Palestinian and Jordanian people?

MR. PRESIDENT:

Having outlined to the esteemed Council the magnitude and manifold aspects of this cursed Israeli aggression, what a pale and futile mockery becomes any talk about "live and let live," about "peace and stability" in the Middle East and far beyond: how shallow and meaningless become references to Security Council resolutions, General Assembly resolutions, let alone other magical frameworks for peace.

Holy Jerusalem will never be alienated from the hundreds of millions who revere it as an integral part of their religion and historical legacy; the Palestinians will never forsake their ancestral homeland. Elemental justice, the rule of law in international relations and a scrupulous observance of Security Council and other United Nations resolutions, are the only guarantee of regional, as well as world peace and security.

It is for these compelling reasons that my Government urges this esteemed Council to act forcefully and in unison to compel Israel to desist from any further cannibalisation of the Palestinian and other Arab occupied lands and people. Furthermore, we urge the Security Council to serve notice on Israel that continued failure to heed the Security Council's resolutions would be met by the application of Chapter VII of the Charter, which provides for appropriate sanctions against defiant and recalcitrant members.

MR. PRESIDENT:

What is at stake is nothing less than literally the very survival of the Palestinian people in their homeland and, hence, the possibility or otherwise of achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. There was a time when states were obsessed with the so-called "survival of Israel." The time is overdue when the world should become concerned about Israel's conquests and the fate of the Palestinian people.

Thank you Mr. President.

Death toll of explosion near Amman rises to 14

By a Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN, March 12—The death toll from yesterday's explosion at a gunpowder and dynamite depot near Amman rose to 14 today when police recovered the bodies of two children from the wreckage left by the blast and a third critically hurt victim died in hospital.

Forty four others were injured and six of them were still on the critical list at Al Bashir Hospital here after last night's explosion at Um Al Basatin, 17 kms. southwest of Amman, on the Na'ur-Al Yaddah road. Thirty four others injured in the explosion were treated in hospital and discharged.

The explosion, which razed the three-storey depot packed with explosives used in blasting rocks in quarries, also demolished five surrounding houses. Two separate blasts were heard in Amman and blew open windows in houses as far away as Jabal Luwibdeh.

The site of the explosion was a scene of utter devastation today. Where the depot had stood there is now a crater about a 150 metres wide and 10 metres deep. The stones of which the depot was built were pulverised into a powder that now coats the surrounding area. Trees that did not simply disappear were transformed in split seconds into splintered stumps.

This afternoon 13 victims of the explosion were buried in a mass

grave in the nearby village of Um Al Quttain. The fourteenth victim was buried at Um Al Basatin. His Majesty King Hussein delegated the Governor of Amman, Yahya Al Musilli, to attend the funeral and offer his condolences to the families of the deceased.

King Hussein, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Interior Minister Sulaiman Arar rushed to the scene of the explosion last night and supervised rescue operations, which were continuing early today.

Police are still probing the cause of the explosion. A special committee including police officers and army sappers has been formed to conduct the investigation. There is speculation that the catastrophe might have been caused by a rat chewing on a detonator fuse, which could have caused a spark and set the whole thing off. Bodies of dead rats have been found in the vicinity of the explosion. Police sources were skeptical of this explanation, however.

A similar explosion occurred at Jabal Amman, near the First Circle, in 1949. Legislation was passed at the time that forced explosives depots to be moved outside city limits. At present, there are 423 quarries in Jordan, 160 of them in the vicinity of Amman, 107 near Irbid, 35 in the Badia and 35 in the Ma'an district, 29 near Zarqa, 28 in Balqa, 17 in Karak and four in Aqaba.

Explosives depots are subjected to special safety regulations: they are required to have reinforced concrete walls, access to the explosives within is limited and the depots are regularly inspected by the police. The depot at Um Al Basatin had three doors, with two locks on each door. One key to each door was in the possession of Mr. Mazen Jamil Zakaria, the son of the owner of the depot, and the other set of three keys was in the possession of a public security official. Entry to the depot, the removal of explosives or the storage of new material requires the presence of a public security official.

Mr. Jamil Zakaria, the owner of the depot and the farm on which it was situated, is known to have suffered a heart attack on hearing the news of the disaster last night and is now being treated in hospital.

The farm has a watchman, who is also responsible for the depot; but he is only on duty during the day. When the explosion occurred at 8:15 last night, he was not at the site.

Mr. Badran today visited the injured at Al Bashir Hospital, and the homes of the bereaved.



Rescue workers remove a young victim of the Um Al Basatin explosion on a stretcher Sunday night.



Pulverised rock coats the devastated site.



His Majesty King Hussein views the damage at the site of the massive explosion 17 km from Amman Sunday night. On his right is Prime Minister Mudar Badran and on his left is Interior Minister Arar.



These are the remains of three houses near the depot.

We're off to London three times a week!

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THE SYRIAN-JORDANIAN CO. FOR INDUSTRY INVITATION

FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF SPECIALIZED CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY AND ERECTION OF WHITE CEMENT FACTORY IN JORDAN

The Syrian-Jordanian Co. For Industry intends to build a new White Cement Factory with 100,000 M.T. per annum in JORDAN.

Since the project implementation contract has been decided to be on a "Turn-Key" basis, and since past experience of contractor is of major interest for the execution of such project, interested firms have to provide the following information:-

1. Name, address, country and date of incorporation and type of firm.
2. Name of principals and key employees of firm, including professional specialties.
3. Number of white cement factories that were built by the firm in the past, their location, process, capacity, date of commencement of project and date of completion. How many of these projects were contracted on a "Turn-Key" basis? and what was their cost and capacity?
4. Name of clients of these factories and their addresses.
5. Is the firm currently involved in cement manufacturing or cement-plant machinery?
6. Is the firm, at present, involved in the construction of any white cement factories? How many? Where are they, and when are they expected to be completed?
7. Does the firm intend to carry-out such contract jointly with other firms? Which are these firms? And what is their specialty and process know-how: engineering, supply, erection and civil works...etc.?
8. The firm is to provide information on its finances as well as names of banks for reference.
9. Any further useful information which will demonstrate the degree of qualification.

Replies and related supporting information should be submitted not later than Sunday 12:00 noon, 15 April, 1979 to:-

**The General Manager,
Syrian-Jordanian Co. For Industry
P.O.Box 925411, Amman,
JORDAN**

**K.A. NAJDAMI
GENERAL MANAGER**



The explosion left a crater 10 metres deep and 150 metres wide.

(continued from page 1)

and realism. In a reference to the cliff-hanging talks he has held with Israeli leaders since arriving from Cairo on Saturday night, he said he had written and re-written his speech over the previous 24 hours.

With a wry grin, the president said he had discarded a speech of despair, another of glad tidings, and had settled for one of caution and hope.

Mr. Begin speaking in Hebrew, said he and President Carter had had very serious discussions. "There are differences of opinion between us but we are discussing them with mutual respect as is done between friends," he said.

Addressing the president directly, he said: "It is not true that you came to exert pressure. Had there been pressure we would have resisted it."

The prime minister went on: "We shall have to continue talking until we find solutions to all the problems, until we submit them to the Knesset and call on it to ratify a draft for peace in the hope that it brings real peace."

"Therefore we will have to continue to stand on guard," he said. "That is why it is so important to define what is meant by security

for us... Under no circumstances we put our people in jeopardy."

Heckling erupted during a speech by leader Shimon Peres, who said Israel recognized the rights of the Palestinians.

Some of his Labor League had unpolished drop the phrase.

But Mr. Peres, a minister, went ahead that. Palestinian spelled out in the peace agreements, President Sadat and President Carter.

The opposition created his party's settlement of the Palestinian issue, the frame agreement with Israel.

Mr. Peres also moderate. Palestinian take part in discussions with Israel. But he rejected the idea of a Palestinian state.

Mr. Peres was led by zealots on a "rightwing" diehard commands.

CAST FOR TUESDAY, MAR. 13, 1979

YOUR HOROSCOPE

CARROLL BIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There could be some confusion in the day but keep calm for best results. Try to put in motion a course of action that can be closer to the perfection you desire.

Mar. 21 to Apr. 19: You will not be able to gain much weight in the morning, but later it manifests itself. Take no risks in motion.

Mar. 20 to May 20: Make plans for entertaining your important work is done and don't leave it to chance. Maintain a cheerful manner.

May 21 to June 21: Make sure your home is in order before making plans to entertain there. Your guests will be good at this time.

June 22 to July 21: Get busy at your affairs early so you will have time for recreation and your money wisely.

July 22 to Aug. 21: You are not thinking clearly in making so postpone making an important decision. Be alert at all times today.

Aug. 22 to Sept. 21: You can make changes in your aims and objectives in the afternoon, but avoid one who is jealous of you.

Sept. 22 to Oct. 21: You have neglected work and feel guilty, but if you stop procrastinating and you will start feeling better.

Oct. 22 to Nov. 21: Steer clear of selfish people. The morning. Seek the company of those who are as you. Strive for personal aims.

Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: You have given out solving outside affairs, so get busy early and obtain results. Make sure your diet is right.

Dec. 22 to Jan. 20: You have to study a carefully plan if you want to get the right. Be sure to keep promises you've made.

Jan. 21 to Feb. 19: Get busy and rid of responsibilities that are annoying. Side-step is detrimental to your progress.

Feb. 20 to Mar. 20: Listen to the gripes of others and do something constructive about them. Use your temper with anyone.

GOREN BRIDGE

CHARLES H. GOREN
OMAR SHARIF
By Chicago Tribune

ASK OMAR

Recent column, you following sequence:

Not North-East
as 1 Pass.

Comment was that
art rebid "obvious-
l a six-card suit,"
this? I thought a
mised only a five-
t. — Caryl Mason,
Conn.

Question has been
the weekly prize.)

ly, a simple rebid of
it does not guarantee
five cards, but this is a
re of auction where
not hold true. In this
responder has made
best bid available;
ss, opener has, in ef-
fessed a whole level of
a rebid his own suit.
would apply if opener
spade, responder bids
ump and opener now
to spades; or one
diamond — two clubs;
hand — one heart — two

r does not have a six-
in these auctions, let's
how he would rebid
possible holdings.
e-card support and a
love, or with four-card
opener would raise
s suit. With a bal-
d, opener would rebid
And opener would
and suit if he held four
It's only when opener

has a six-card, or longer, suit that
none of these conditions apply.

To demonstrate the accuracy
of this rebidding structure, ex-
amine the following hands and
determine what you would rebid
after partner responds one spade
to your one heart opening.

Hand 1 is a sound raise to two
spades. You have three trumps
headed by an honor and a ruffing
value in diamonds. Don't let the
fact that partner might have only
a four-card suit deter you from
making your normal rebid. If he
has four spades and a minimum
hand, two spades should be as-
good a spot as any. If he has a
better than minimum, he will
take another bid and you will be
well placed to steer the contract
to the best spot.

The third hand is a two-suiter,
and you should re — it as such.
Rebid two diamonds to show
your shape. Note that, when it
comes to making your second
bid, the rules for biddable suits
can be relaxed considerably.

The last hand is a typical rebid
of two hearts — an unbalanced hand,
little support for partner's suit
and no second suit.

As with all "rules," opener
does not absolutely guarantee a
six-card suit on these auction. He
might have:

Over a spade response, opener
does not have adequate support
to raise partner's suit, nor suffi-
cient strength or length in clubs
to rebid one no trump. In this
case, opener must choose be-
tween the lesser of evils and
rebid this strong five-card suit. A
word of caution. Don't choose
this rebid unless your suit is
very good, for you may have to
play there, opposite a singleton.

Starting early against polio



HAMBURG — Polio vaccine in a lump of sugar is still a must for babies, health authorities in West Germany annually proclaim. Vaccination was so widespread in the sixties that people tend to forget this essential precaution. Parents should make sure their children are vaccinated as babies. Three lumps of sugar taken at specified intervals can mean the difference between safety for life and life as a cripple. Booster shots should be taken every eight years. (Dad photo)

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Hann Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ULARR

PECOU

RYNFEZ

BROMEY



WHERE HE THOUGHT
HE'D GO WHEN THE
PLUMBER HANDED
HIM THE BILL.

Now arrange the jumbled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " " (Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: ERASE FANCY MARTIN NORMAL
Answer: They're pretty sure to check at a bathing beauty contest — CAMERAS

THE BETTER HALF

By Barnes



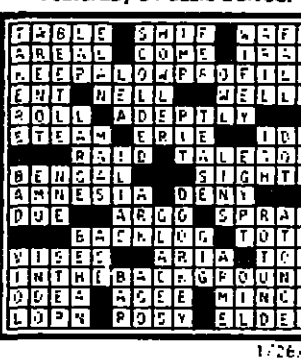
"Doesn't that look like the tie I gave Stanley for his birthday last week?"

THE Daily Crossword

by Herb L. Risteen

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Tower town	1 Footwear
5 Flower part	2 Troubles
10 Name dropper	3 Apostle-actor
14 Woeful word	4 Seeker of advancement
15 — de menthe	5 Certain certifi-
16 Relative of atmo	6 Leprechaun land
17 Desk item	7 Songstress-
18 Inflexible	8 French friend
19 Legal holding	9 Influenced
20 — at criti-	
22 Vacillate	
23 Inveigle	
24 Bumpkins	
27 Dismays	
29 Remained	
30 Pronoun	
32 Inclines	
34 Attack	
35 Barnyard noise	
36 Fill full	
37 Fish basket	
38 Message	
39 Building extension	
40 Ring events	
41 Part of a long poem	
42 Went swiftly	
43 Oriental prince	
44 Mussulman	
45 Fourth —	
47 Church section	
48 Cries loudly	
50 Model or type	
53 Highest point	
54 High society	
56 Asian land	
58 Arms or George	
59 American poet	
60 Jacob's boy	
61 Layers	
62 Explosive sounds	
63 Extravagant	
10 West coast shrub	
11 Playwright-fictional villain	
12 USSR city	
13 Gaunt	
21 Cronies	
22 Pockmark	
25 Caravan stops	
26 German seaport	
27 Horatio —	
28 Alexander's birthplace	
31 Sticky cake	
32 Sin city	
34 Spread a rumor	
37 Stupor	
38 Drinking	
40 Wagers	
41 Egyptian	
44 Impressionistic works of art	
46 Twists	
48 Hit hard	
49 Feel discomfort	
51 News brief	
52 Building part	
54 Grow weaker	
55 Zodiac sign	
57 Small drink	

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



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JORDAN TELEVISION

CHANNEL 3:

5:30 Quran
6:45 Cartoon
6:50 Children's programme
6:50 News
7:10 Return to Peyton Palace
8:00 News in Arabic
8:30 Arabic Series
9:30 Arabic programme
11:00 News in Arabic

CHANNEL 6:

6:30 French programme
7:00 News in French
7:30 News in Hebrew
8:30 Comedy
9:30 The Onion Line
10:00 News in English
10:15 Dallas
11:00 News in Arabic

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Sign on
7:01 Morning show
7:30 News Bulletin
7:40 Morning show
10:00 News Bulletin
10:05 Morning show
10:50 Faces and Places
11:00 Sign off
12:00 Sign on and news headlines
12:05 Radioactive
13:00 News summary
13:30 Arabic Series
13:50 Radioactive

14:00 News bulletin
14:10 Music
14:30 In Concert
15:00 Concert hour
16:00 News summary
16:45 Easy listening
17:30 Old favorites
17:00 Country music
18:00 News Summary
18:15 The Amman String Quartet
18:45 Play of the week
19:00 News bulletin
19:10 News Reports
19:30 Spring off

BBC RADIO

04:00 Newsday
04:30 Nature Notebook
04:45 Financial News: Reflections
05:00 News: 24 Hours
05:30 World Today
06:00 Newsday
06:30 News and the March of History
07:00 News: 24 Hours
07:30 World Today
07:45 Financial News
08:00 News: 24 Hours
08:30 World Today
08:45 Financial News
09:00 News: 24 Hours
09:30 World Today
09:45 Financial News
10:00 News: 24 Hours
10:30 World Today
10:45 Financial News
11:00 News: 24 Hours
11:30 World Today
11:45 Financial News
12:00 News: 24 Hours
12:30 World Today
12:45 Financial News
13:00 News: 24 Hours
13:30 World Today
13:45 Financial News

14:30 Talkback
14:40 Radio Newswell
15:15 Outlook
16:00 News: Commentary
16:15 The Amman String Quartet
16:45 World Today
17:00 News
17:30 Scotland this Week
17:45 Thirty Minute Theatre
18:00 News: News about Britain
18:15 Radio Newswell
18:30 The Farming World
19:00 Outlook: News Summary
19:30 Stock Market
19:45 Channel Record Review
20:00 News: 24 Hours
20:30 The Tonight Show
21:00 World Radio Club
21:15 The Piano's Yours
21:30 News: World Today
22:00 News: World Today
22:30 Scotland this Week: Reflections
22:45 Sports Round-up
23:00 News: Commentary

VOICE OF AMERICA

GANT

10:30 The Breakfast Show
10:30 News, Pop music, features, interviews, questions
12:00 News Roundup, reports, opinion, analysis
12:30 Date Line
13:00 Special English: News Feature
13:00 "The Making of a Nation"
13:30 News Minute USA

14:00 News Roundup, reports, opinion, analysis
14:30 VOA Magazine: Americans, science, culture, letters
15:00 Special English: news, opinion, analysis
15:30 News USA (Luz)
16:00 VOA World Report
16:30 News, Correspondents' reports, background features, media comments, analysis

ARRIVALS:

6:30 Bangkok, Bahrain (RJ GF)
11:30 Kuwait
12:00 Riyadh (SDI)
12:30 New York
13:45 Cairo
14:30 Madrid, Athens
17:45 Copenhagen, Vienna
18:00 London, Paris
18:15 Rome
18:30 Cairo (EA)
18:45 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)
19:00 Baghdad (IA)
19:15 Frankfurt
19:45 Damascus
20:45 Cairo (EA)
21:00 Cairo

DEPARTURES:

7:40 Damascus, London (EA)
8:45 Beirut (MEA)
9:00 Frankfurt
9:15 Rome
10:30 Cairo
11:00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam
12:45 Kuwait (KAC)
13:40 Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI)
14:30 Damascus
19:00 Cairo
19:25 Cairo (EA)
19:30 Kuwait
19:40 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ GF)
20:15 Baghdad (IA)
21:00 Jeddah
21:30 Dhahran
22:50 Tokyo, Moscow (RJ GF)
23:50 Bangkok, Bahrain
23:55 Cairo (EA)
02:45 Tehran

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:
Amman:
Muhammad Shuram (76167)
Ishtam Al Ghayth
Irbid:
Adnan Al Naser (2415)
Zarg:
Mustafed Hamzah (73647)
Pharmacies:
Amman:
Naimah (3427)
Zarg:
Fayez (2427)
Basman (46736)
Mishay (46754)
Al Urdun (23050)

Neirakh (3427 Al Safi Street)
Gharatib (23661)
Irbid:
Al Shera:
Zarg:
Taher:
Yasir:
Fayez (2427)
Basman (46736)
Mishay (46754)
Al Urdun (23050)

CULTURAL CENTRES (Amman)

American Centre	Tel. 41520
British Council	26147-8
French Cultural Centre	27009
Geetha Institute	41917
Soviet Cultural Centre	44203
Spanish Cultural Centre	24040
Hava Arts Centre	65145
Haven Youth City	67101
Y.W.C.A.	41707
American Municipal Library	62251
University of Jordan Library	26111
Canadian Museum	62111
Folklore Museum	30191

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Amman)

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 75111
Al-Jazeera rescue	22501-4
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	36301-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	37111-3
Police headquarters	39141
Spoken 24 hours a day for emergency	21111, 37777
Airport information (AIA)	21111
Jordan Television	31111
Radio: English section	31111
Fire station, fire, police	19
Fire headquarters	22000

CULTURAL CENTRES (Damascus)

Al Hamra Theatre	Tel. 226-448
Al Shabab Cultural Centre	228-527
American Centre	555-362
Arab Cultural Centre	333-227
Bulgarian Cultural Centre	557-901
British Cultural Centre	333-544
Deutsche Demokratische Republik Cultural Centre	333-082
French Cultural Centre	530-494
Kalham Theatre	222-016
National Museum	114-854
Soviet Cultural Centre	222-016
Spanish Cultural Centre	222-016
Ukrainian Art Gallery	334-619
Zahara Public Library	111-318
West German Cultural Institute	224-954

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Damascus)

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 90
Chamber of Commerce	118-339
Electric Power Co. (emergency)	333-987
Fire headquarters	91
Information	95-97
Municipal water service	113-500
Time (in Arabic)	91

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EMS announcement expected

Unemployment issue awaits EEC summit

PARIS, March 12 (R) -- Common Market leaders today begin a two-day summit meeting which will tackle the nagging problem of unemployment in the nine European Community countries.

Latest figures show 6.5 million people are out of work in the Community, a high proportion of them people under 25.

The summit host, President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France, faces acute unemployment problems, with clashes in northern France between police and workers whose jobs are threatened by steel mills closures.

The summit, taking place in the conference centre where the Vietnam peace talks were held, will also be an opportunity for the nine leaders to give a political push to the search for a coherent Common Market policy.

The Iranian revolution has given new urgency to the need for ways to save energy and increase to nine's capacity to produce its own fuel.

As last-minute preparations are made for the summit, no single

topic stands out as the dominant theme. Last year the search for currency stability was the major issue.

While the leaders are meeting here, the start of the European Monetary System (EMS) is expected to be announced, but this needs only technical decisions which should not involve the heads of government directly.

They took all the major political decisions on the EMS, a scheme to protect trade within the Community from unsteady currency markets, at their three summit meetings last year.

But an imminent announcement that the EMS is to begin, following more than two months of delay caused by disagreement about taxes and subsidies on exports of farm produce, will give a political boost to the summit.

President Giscard d'Estaing,

whose domestic opposition is critical of his European policies, can expect to benefit at home from a summit he can show to be successful.

The French leader is expected to press upon his colleagues his call for an international political and economic cooperation conference grouping Western Europe, Africa and the Arab world.

At home in Western Europe the major issue is unemployment. So far only piecemeal solutions have been proposed such as Common Market held with retraining redundant workers and a shorter working week—an idea favoured by socialist parties in the European Parliament.

Afghan rebel groups again join forces

RAWALPINDI, March 12 (R) -- Two rival rebel groups battling Afghanistan's leftist rulers patched up a quarrel yesterday and announced their second attempt in five months to join forces.

Leaders of the Afghanistan Islamic Party and the National Rescue Front pledged at a press conference to wage a joint guerrilla struggle against pro-communist strongman Mr. Noor Mohammad Tarakki, who seized power in a coup last April.

They first linked up last October but split two months later over how to handle their insurrection in Afghanistan's east provinces. Their men claim to have inflicted heavy casualties on government forces, and the Kabul regime has responded by bombing villages.

The two groups also announced a third group was joining their fight, the hitherto-unknown Harakat Inqilabi Islami.

Rebel leaders said their rebels now governed Afghanistan's mountainous regions, leaving only the cities in effective government control. They said they controlled Kunar Province, north of Kabul, and some of the biggest clashes.

About 35,000 families had fled Afghanistan to Pakistan since the coup, they said, though asylum was the only aid Pakistan was giving to the dissidents.

Bombs rock Corsica as opposition groups clash

BASTIA, Corsica, March 12 (R) -- Bombers struck against Corsican autonomists yesterday after the worst wave of bombings on this French Mediterranean island since last July. Seven bombs exploded in this northern port and in villages to the south in the homes and shops of supporters of autonomist groups, police said.

In an apparent escalation of the battle between the banned Corsican Liberation Front (FLNC) and its opponents, the blasts seemed an immediate reply to a total of 34 explosions caused by autonomists in Corsica and in Paris before dawn two days ago.

No one has claimed responsibility for yesterday's bombings, but a group which wants Corsica to remain French, called the Action Front against Autonomists and Separatists (Francia), has carried out such attacks in the past.

Last July, Corsican autonomists exploded 34 bombs within an hour in a rash of attacks on the island, in Paris, Brittany and the Basque country. Some 440 bombings and shootings were carried

out in Corsica last year, of which police estimate a third were politically motivated.

The weekend bombings came at a time when police believed they had succeeded in dismantling the FLNC after a series of arrests in the past six months. One group of autonomists will stand trial in Paris, probably next month.

Bombs were set off this weekend outside banks on the island in Corte, Ponte Leccia, Bastia and in the capital of Ajaccio. Two bombs exploded in Paris outside branches of the Societe Generale.

On Saturday a bomb exploded at the home of a cousin of autonomist leader Edmond Simeoni, whose Corsican People's Union (UPC) would let Paris run defence and foreign affairs. The FLNC wants a straight break.

President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and Prime Minister Raymond Barre visited Corsica last year and called for an end to bombings and violence on the island. Though both received a warm welcome, their appeals appear to have been ignored by Corsicans.

World meet will try again for fund to prevent commodity price fluctuations

GENEVA, March 12 (R) -- More than 100 rich and poor nations today begin their fourth attempt in two years to set up an international fund to help stabilise commodity prices and supplies, but their chances of success are limited.

Few hopes have been expressed that they can reach an agreement this time to present to the fifth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Manila, scheduled for May.

Industrialised and developing

countries are still at odds over key elements of the proposed multi-million dollar fund which would aim at preventing fluctuations in the prices of revenue-earning export commodities produced in the Third World.

One of the key issues still to be sorted out is the size of the fund, which was trimmed to \$700 million last November from the original estimate of \$6 billion.

UNCTAD Secretary-General Gamani Corea reported in December: "I do believe that the gaps which still remain are such as

could be filled with a little extra effort on the part of all concerned."

But developments since the report seem likely to dash these hopes. Proposals for \$500,000 minimum contributions to the fund by governments were increased to \$1 million by developing states at a meeting last month in Tanzania.

The United States has said it will not join the "second window" scheme until it is satisfied the scheme is viable and will not duplicate the work of other international institutions.

W. Germany faces 'critical' issue of threat posed by Soviet missiles

BONN, West Germany, March 12 (AP) -- The threat to Western Europe posed by Soviet medium-range, nuclear-tipped missiles has spawned a debate in West Germany over detente and Bonn's relationship with Washington.

Both the opposition Christian Democratic Union and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's Social Democratic Party have expressed concern over rapidly increasing deployment of Soviet SS-20 and other medium-range missiles, capable of wiping out every Western European capital.

The Bonn government and other European allies would like to see the SS-20s the subject of

East-West negotiations along with other "gray zone" weapons which do not fall into the definition of strategic arms in the U.S.-Soviet SALT deliberations.

According to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, the Soviets have about 690 medium-range missiles aimed primarily at the West.

These include about 100 mobile SS-20s, each capable of delivering three nuclear warheads. The Soviets are believed to be increasing their SS-20 stockpile by about 50 a year.

If the SS-20s do not disappear through negotiations, conservative Christian Democrat

politicians would like to see the United States counter by stationing on West German soil nuclear-tipped, Pershing missiles aimed at the Soviet Union.

Leading members of Mr. Schmidt's party fear this would so anger Moscow that it would end detente in Europe and upset Bonn's efforts for better relations with East Germany and other Soviet Bloc nations.

The Soviets have reportedly informed Bonn that it would have to reassess its relationship if such weapons were deployed in West Germany. The United States stations tactical nuclear weapons in West Germany, but these are not capable of reaching Soviet territory.

The issue has attracted little public attention in the United States, which is concerned right now with the Middle East, South-east Asia and the final stages of SALT negotiations to limit strategic arms.

In West Germany, which borders two Soviet Bloc countries and lies only 800 kilometres from the Soviet Union, the issue is considered critical.

West German leaders, still chafing over U.S. President Jimmy Carter's indecision on the Neutron bomb, are looking to his administration for leadership in solving what they see as a threat to their security.

During the parliamentary debate, Mr. Schmidt carefully avoided a commitment on the missiles. He expressed pleasure at Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's willingness to negotiate a limitation on medium-range missiles and praised Moscow's "responsible policy" on detente.

Revolutionary Council Iran's dynam

By Brian Jeffries

TEHRAN, Iran, March 12 (AP) -- Its membership is a mix of powers and immensities. As Iran's revolution gropes for a new order to bring peace, the authority wielded by the Revolutionary Council is the glue holding the nation together. Members authorise arrests, set up revolutionary courts, death sentences, organise security and oversee food through hundreds of revolutionary committees in Iran.

Since the bloody weekend of street battles in Tehran a year ago finally toppled Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the Revolutionary Council has been the true centre of power here, a provisional government by Ayatollah Khomeini. The stern-faced religious leader almost certainly will remain in power until the Council's apparent determination to make a permanent government out of the increasingly uncertain stage of the revolution has brought the provisional government of Prime Minister Bazargan into confrontation with the Ayatollah Khomeini, who appointed him in the first place.

Mr. Bazargan's efforts to establish the authority of the government have been undermined by the revolutionary council to the extent that he has now reportedly offered his resignation. Ayatollah Khomeini, who is said to have rejected the resignations and radical groups with their interference and have made it impossible for the government to operate, year-old Mr. Bazargan said recently: "They persecute and arrest people, they issue orders, they oppose us, they are appointments. Our day has been turned into night."

The Council's control of day-to-day life in Iran is revolutionary committees is simply demonstrated by the capital. A network of 14 revolutionary committees throughout Tehran under the direction of Mr. Mohsen Mahdavi-Kani, a 47-year-old white turbaned mullah, was appointed directly by the Ayatollah Khomeini in approval of Mr. Bazargan. His overall command of the committees all over the country also makes him one of the most powerful people in Iran. He operates from behind a desk with a battery of constantly ringing telephones, in a 70-year-old Majlis—parliament—buildings in the heart of Tehran.

Each of the Tehran committees, he says, is divided into "responsibility for such activities as security, distribution and control of arms and ammunition and actions such as the provision of food and clothing." To order in the absence of effective police and what guard is being created, he says he has the cooperation of and Marxist guerrillas. Meanwhile, he says: "We are in we can maintain security." Even after the national guard, he said, the revolutionary committees will still have responsibility for their supervision.

Self-proclaimed human rights activist Mr. Ralph Abner, who is an American, recently named seven religious by the Ayatollah Khomeini, he claimed make up the Council. There has been no confirmation that his picture of the prospects he sees for Iran: "Now (the Council) can choose the path of polarisation and chaos to take to the streets again to support his Islamic the democratic pluralism which everyone else wants, result will be civil war and terrible bloodshed and we Imam will not choose this path."

There is a growing polarisation between those who Ayatollah Khomeini and his wish to establish an Islamic the democratic pluralism which everyone else wants, result will be civil war and terrible bloodshed and we Imam will not choose this path.

Columist Fariborz Atpour, in a recent article on dangers of what he described as a "religious coup" in this picture of the prospects he sees for Iran: "Now (the Council) can choose the path of polarisation and chaos to take to the streets again to support his Islamic the democratic pluralism which everyone else wants, result will be civil war and terrible bloodshed and we Imam will not choose this path."

Viet refugees leave swim for Hong Kong

HONG KONG, March 12 (R) -- About 100 Vietnamese refugees, confined aboard a freighter in Hong Kong harbour for more than a month, jumped into the sea yesterday and tried to swim ashore, a government spokesman said. Nine were treated in hospital for exhaustion.

The freighter Skylark crept in under cover of darkness on Feb. 7 with 2,600 Vietnamese refugees on board. Hong Kong authorities refused to let them land as there was no room in the British colony's packed refugee transit camps.

The refugees, apparently making a mass protest at being cooped up for so long, leapt overboard and tried to swim to the offshore island of Lamma, about 1,000 metres from where their temporary home is anchored.

A government spokesman said: "Some were picked up by marine police launches and others were picked up ashore, and two of those who were rounded up. Vietnamese become a major Hong Kong problem, and of Hong Kong already with an influx of 100,000 immigrants last year. Hong Kong's refugee population almost 16,000, in luck homeless, who arrived in the freighter Huey P. The refugees, apparently making a mass protest at being cooped up for so long, leapt overboard and tried to swim to the offshore island of Lamma, about 1,000 metres from where their temporary home is anchored. A government spokesman said: "Some were picked up by marine police launches and others were

S. Africa confirms raids into Zambia as well as Angola

WINDHOEK, March 12 (R) -- South African forces destroyed more than 12 guerrilla bases during raids into Angola and Zambia last week, South Africa's commander in South West Africa (Namibia), Major-General Jan Geldenhuys, said today.

In the first full statement on the raids, he said a joint air and ground operation against the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) was launched last Tuesday and lasted nearly 60 hours.

"Ground forces were ferried across the border to attack bases after they had been softened up by aircraft," he said.

The South African military command announced its attack into Angola last week but today's statement was the first official confirmation that it had also struck into Zambia.

General Geldenhuys said the first attack was on a SWAPO camp about 30 kilometres inside Angola and ground troops met little resistance.

He said a second attack into Angola was made later the same day and three more the following day. In each case the guerrillas had evacuated the camps before the ground forces arrived although one man was captured in the bush surrounding one of the camps. Further air raids were then launched deeper inside Angola, the statement said.

General Geldenhuys said the South African forces suffered no casualties and the total losses to the guerrillas could not be confirmed. However he pointed out that reports from Lusaka said at least 40 people were killed.

"Information received prior to the attack revealed that SWAPO had been moving their men south to cross the border as soon as a ceasefire was announced," he said.

A ceasefire in this South African-ruled territory has been proposed for this Thursday by U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim prior to elections leading to independence later this year.

However there is considerable doubt about when a ceasefire will be enforced, with both SWAPO and South Africa objecting to certain points in Dr. Waldheim's proposals.

Rhodesian premier's party in position to win all white seats in black-majority parliament

SALISBURY, March 12 (R) -- Premier Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front Party appears certain to sweep unopposed into all 28 white seats in the black-dominated first parliament of Zimbabwe Rhodesia.

All the other major political

parties, black and white, have decided not to contest the guaranteed white seats in the parliament to follow the one-man, one-vote elections next month.

The Rhodesian Front only needs 23 or more seats in the 100-seat House of Assembly to be in a strong position in the new country.

It would have effective power of veto on any changes to the 1979 majority rule constitution, which provides for continued day-to-day white control of the security forces, judiciary and civil service. Such changes require 78 parliamentary votes in favour.

The way was finally cleared for a Rhodesian Front walkover recently when the United African National Council (UANC) of Bishop Abel Muzorewa decided

not to fight the white seats. "It would be a waste of time and energy," Bishop Muzorewa said.

The two other major black parties—the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) faction of the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole and the Zimbabwe United Peoples Organisation (ZUPU) of Chief Jeremiah Chirau—had already announced they would not contest the white seats.

The biggest white opposition party, the liberal National Unifying Force (NUF), is boycotting the election because it believes the guaranteed white bloc in parliament was designed to perpetuate white privilege and control. White rightist parties, hampered by the Rhodesian Front in previous polls, have also declared a "no contest".

Twenty white seats will be voted for next month by whites only.

Scottish duke puts historic Hebrides isle up for sale

EDINBURGH, Scotland, March 12 (AP) -- The island of Iona, cradle of Christianity in Scotland, is up for sale and the Church of Scotland is praying the historic haunt of pilgrims and honeymooners will not be snapped up by outsiders.

The tiny isle off Scotland's west coast is owned by the Duke of Argyll, who is selling it, along with a mainland estate, to raise cash to meet \$1 million in inheritance taxes.

The low-lying, 1,000-hectare island, the most storied and historically significant of the Hebrides, has been in the family since 1635. The Argylls, leaders of the Campbell clan, once were the most powerful family in Scotland.

Realtors believe the island, listed in guidebooks as a "feudal relic," could make \$2 million or more for the Argylls and get them off the tax hook.

Iona's historical importance lies in the founding there in 563 A.D. of the first Christian monastery in Scotland by St. Columba, an Irish cleric of royal birth who fled the emerald isle with 12 disciples.

His evangelical mission was astonishingly successful and from Iona he and his friends spread the Gospel throughout Scotland and northern England.

Iona's fame as a holy place made it a natural as a royal burial ground for several centuries. No fewer than 60 Scottish, Irish and Norse kings are buried there. Among them is Duncan, king of the Scots, and his ambitious murderer, Macbeth, who was immortalised by Shakespeare.

Marauding Vikings plundered Iona between 795 and 825, slaying a goodly number of the monks. Magnus Barefoot, king of Norway, held it for a while before it

was taken over by the MacDonnells and eventually handed over to the Argylls.

The once-powerful family gave the 13th century abbey to the Church of Scotland in 1899, which means it is not part of the deal to sell the island.

These days, Iona is a crime-free paradise far away from the mainland rat race. That's how the 90 inhabitants want it to stay.

The church and the islanders, who have to ship in their coal twice a year, fear Iona could be taken over by speculators who will turn the tranquil island into a sort of Christian Disneyland.

Mr. Angus Johnston, owner of the St. Columba Hotel, said: "Our immediate worry is that Iona may be commercialised. The Argylls preserved it very well and that's the way we want it to stay."

The Rev. Brian Crosby, who looks after the celebrated abbey, noted: "The dukes never exploited Iona. But now everyone's worried about what could happen."

The 12th Duke of Argyll, who carries the hereditary title of "admiral of the isles," said he decided to sell Iona "with the utmost reluctance."

He noted: "I would dearly love to see Iona return into state control in Scotland if it's possible. I and my trustees will make sure it goes to a body that looks after Iona's people and Iona—in that order."

The Church of Scotland has said it may launch a public appeal to raise the money to buy the island when it goes on the block in the fall. The duke has indicated that if the church can raise the money he will sell it the island.

New tricks for U.K. prices watchd

By David Churchill

LONDON -- The British Government has just secured parliamentary approval for a tightening up of its six-year-old price control laws in a bid to prevent another sharp dose of inflation.

But the move -- which basically involves scrapping special profit safeguards for companies denied a price rise -- has failed to make an impact on the trade unions or employers. The unions do not see the tougher price controls as enough for them to forgo large wage claims, while the employers' organisation, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), claims the move "will have no measurable effect on the general level of prices." Instead it will severely damage individual companies' profitability and lead to a loss of jobs, the employers claim.

After more than six years of formal price controls in the U.K., it is becoming clear to both sides of industry that price control mechanisms are not a panacea for rising prices.

Even the government's prices watchdog, the Price Commission, has admitted in public its doubts over its ability to restrain most of

the price increases it is told about.

Instead the commission is consciously trying to adopt a new role of keeping industry on its toes by savage criticisms of the way companies carry out their business. This, the commission believes, can have a greater influence on prices than more straight-forward measures which tend to distort the workings of the economy.

But the commission's bid to set itself up as the arbiter of corporate efficiency has angered industrialists for being "superficial and inaccurate."

It was the former Conservative prime minister, Edward Heath, who established the 1970s-style mechanism of price controls in the U.K. when he set up the first Price Commission in 1973 as part of his attempts to control inflation.

However, the commission could not prevent inflation rising from around seven per cent when it began work to over 30 per cent at its peak. The commission claims to have exerted a dampening influence and to have restrained prices by about four per cent at their peak. But Lord Cockfield, the commission's first chairman, has acknowledged that the principal contribution of price control was

Britain's Price Commission has not been notably successful in restraining inflation or price rises in the six years of its existence, so it is now trying new tactics—including savage criticism of company methods.

to make pay restraint politically acceptable. Apart from such considerations, he believes that price controls should have ended by March 1976 "at the latest."

But the controls remained beyond that date, although in 1977 the Price Commission was remodelled. As with the first commission, the new version was also a political gesture to the unions for continued wage restraint. It was not framed as a crisis measure -- since the signs were that inflation was falling and the economy was picking up -- and this was reflected in the new commission's powers. It was given a great deal of discretionary power to carry out investigations into price rises, but

little actual power of enforcement.

Under the price control legislation, all manufacturing companies with a turnover in excess of £15 million (£12 million in the case of service companies) have to give the commission 28 days' notice of a price rise. The commission, at its regular weekly meetings, can then decide whether or not a proposed increase should be investigated further. If it does decide to investigate, the existing price is frozen for three months while a team of commission officials, with help from a large accountancy firm, carry out the investigation.

After pressure from the CBI, the government had allowed spe-

cial "safeguard regulations" to be included which enabled companies to secure an interim price rise during an investigation if they could show that otherwise their profits would be adversely affected.

It is these safeguard regulations that the government has now scrapped, although the Price Commission can still grant an interim price rise if it believes the company otherwise would suffer unduly.

After the three-month price investigation the commission sends its report to the prices secretary. The commission can recommend a delay for a further eight months in implementing the rise which, if the prices secretary agrees, would effectively mean freezing the price for a year.

But the present Price Commission has not taken such drastic action during its first 18 months in existence. Prices Secretary Roy Hattersley has pointed out that the first 26 investigations carried out by the commission -- when prices should have been frozen for at least three months -- some 20 of the companies concerned had received interim price rises.

Charles Williams, the former

merchant banker, rent chairman of also frankly admits that the commission can have reducing price short-term, what government can enforce the trade.

"We are in a position of quite new kind," said Mr. Williams.

He is quite sure the commission's improve efficiency term; and through business. "We are in a position of quite new kind," said Mr. Williams.

Mr. Williams may, however, be Conservative. Secretary of its Prices Commission has already placed commission in the General. NEWS

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